

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In an order server, a method for processing order messages, comprising the steps  
5 of:  
receiving a first message of the order messages over a network, the first  
message comprising a first document organized in a first predefined format;  
obtaining a first data set from the first message based on the first  
predefined format of the first document in response to the step of receiving the  
10 first message;  
obtaining a second data set by processing the first data set of the first  
message in response to the step of obtaining the first data set; and  
providing over the network the second data set in a second message  
comprising a second document organized in a second predefined format suitable  
15 for use by an ordering application.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the order server is a vendor order server and the  
ordering application is a customer ordering application; and wherein:  
the step of receiving the first message comprises receiving a first extended  
20 markup language document from the customer ordering application;  
the step of obtaining the first data set comprises obtaining the first data set  
from a first predefined element of the first extended markup language document;  
the step of obtaining the second data set comprises invoking an ordering  
function based on a message type defined in a second predefined element of the  
25 first extended markup language document to generate the second data set; and  
the step of providing the second data set comprises providing the second  
data set in a third predefined element in a second extended markup language  
document to the customer ordering application.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the first message comprises directing the first message to a first message processing module of a plurality of message processing modules.
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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of directing the first message comprises parsing the first message to determine a message type that identifies an ordering function for the first message, and directing the first message to the first processing module based on the message type.
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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the second data set comprises interacting with an order database based on the first data set and based on a message type of the first message to generate the second data set.
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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the second data set comprises performing an ordering function based on the first data set and based on a message type of the first message to generate the second data set.
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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the second predefined format is suitable for integration into a database maintained by the ordering application.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first document and the second document are extended markup language documents.

9. An order server for processing order messages, the order server comprising:
- a memory;
  - an input/output interface in communication with the memory; and
  - a processor in communication with the memory and the input/output
- 5 interface, wherein the memory is encoded with logic instructions for an order message manager application that, when performed on the processor, cause the processor to form an order message manager that processes order messages by performing the operations of:
- receiving through the input/output interface a first message of the
- 10 order messages over a network, the first message comprising a first document organized in a first predefined format;
  - obtaining a first data set from the first message based on the first predefined format of the first document in response to the step of receiving the first message;

15 obtaining a second data set by processing the first data set of the first message in response to the step of obtaining the first data set; and

  - providing through the input/output interface over the network the second data set in a second message comprising a second document organized in a second predefined format suitable for use by an ordering

20 application.

10. The order server of claim 9, wherein the order server is a vendor order server and the ordering application is a customer ordering application; and wherein the logic instructions for the order message manager application comprise further logic instructions, that, when performed on the processor, cause the order message manager to perform the operations of:
- 5 receiving a first extended markup language document from the customer ordering application;
- obtaining the first data set from a first predefined element of the first extended markup language document;
- 10 invoking an ordering function based on a message type defined in a second predefined element of the first extended markup language document to generate the second data set; and
- providing the second data set in a third predefined element in a second extended markup language document to the customer ordering application.
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11. The order server of claim 9, wherein the logic instructions for the order message manager application comprise further logic instructions, that, when performed on the processor, cause the order message manager to perform the operation of directing the first message to a first message processing module of a plurality of message processing modules.
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12. The order server of claim 11, wherein the logic instructions for the order message manager application comprise further logic instructions, that, when performed on the processor, cause the order message manager to perform the operation of
- 25 parsing the first message to determine a message type that identifies an ordering function for the first message, and directing the first message to the first processing module based on the message type.

13. The order server of claim 9, wherein the logic instructions for the order message manager application comprise further logic instructions, that, when performed on the processor, cause the order message manager to perform the operation of interacting with an order database based on the first data set and based on a message type of the first message to generate the second data set.
14. The order server of claim 9, wherein the logic instructions for the order message manager application comprise further logic instructions, that, when performed on the processor, cause the order message manager to perform the operation of performing an ordering function based on the first data set and based on a message type of the first message to generate the second data set.
15. The order server of claim 9, wherein the second predefined format is suitable for integration into a database maintained by the ordering application.
16. The order server of claim 9, wherein the first document and the second document are extended markup language documents.

17. A computer program product that includes a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for processing order messages, such that the instructions, when carried out by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps of:

5           receiving a first message of the order messages over a network, the first message comprising a first document organized in a first predefined format;  
               obtaining a first data set from the first message based on the first predefined format of the first document in response to the step of receiving the first message;  
 10           obtaining a second data set by processing the first data set of the first message in response to the step of obtaining the first data set; and  
               providing over the network the second data set in a second message comprising a second document organized in a second predefined format suitable for use by an ordering application.

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18. An order server for processing order messages, the order server comprising:  
               means for receiving a first message of the order messages over a network, the first message comprising a first document organized in a first predefined format;

20           means for obtaining a first data set from the first message based on the first predefined format of the first document in response to the step of receiving the first message;

              means for obtaining a second data set by processing the first data set of the first message in response to the step of obtaining the first data set; and

25           means for providing over the network the second data set in a second message comprising a second document organized in a second predefined format suitable for use by an ordering application.